Question 15 December

Q1. Would it be possible for you to inform us which authorities are the 3 remaining partners?

**Answer 1** Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Milton Keynes

The ITT also indicates that a study into the role and function of LCS is already underway and will report in January.

Q2a. Will the report be available to bidders before the 8th January bid deadline?

**Answer 2A** The first report has been internally commissioned and covers the role and function of LCS as an overarching cross-regional consortium for all 33 London Boroughs and 3 neighbouring counties, in areas such as:

* market share
* contractual arrangements
* service quality assessment process
* fee assessment methodologies
* cost avoidance savings
* efficiencies
* extended services to local authorities
* function as a learning and knowledge hub
* gaps in current services
* links between LCS and other commissioning arrangements

Q2b. If the report will not be available by 8th January is it possible to receive a description of the specification and scope of this first study, and who is carrying out the work?

**Answer 2B** No

3A. Is this email sufficient notification to allow you to register our intent to bid?

**Answer 3A** This is an open tender on Contracts Finder you will need to register, download all documents on Contracts Finder. Submit the final documents as detailed in the specification

3b. Will email be used to receive any updates or changes during the procurement process?

**Answer 3B** Emails will be used to provide a response to individuals.  But following the responses all questions shall be anonymised and then posted along with the answer on to Contracts Finder. These are updates as and when questions come in and it is up to suppliers to check for changes

3c. Is there any other registration required on any other portal that will also be used publish any other clarification questions and answers?

**Answer 3C** This Tender is only on Contracts Finder questions and answers will only be published on Contracts Finder portal.

4 What is the total budget for this project? I understand that the fee we present should include all direct and indirect costs, but can be exclusive of VAT. However, should we allow also for the VAT in the quotation or can that be over and above the stated budget?

**Answer** The budget figure is without VAT –we consider the cost for evaluation to be exclusive of Vat as stated in the ITT*“Costs should be clearly presented and be inclusive of all fees, direct and indirect costs, expenses but exclusive of VAT”* (page 3). In the Annex One (page 8) under “Tender Charges”, it says *“Charges must be in pounds sterling and be inclusive of all costs but can be exclusive of VAT”.*

5 I note that you are currently working on a first report on the role and function of London Care Services. Is this being undertaken internally or are you using external consultants? If the latter, would you be able to say who these are?

**Answer** The first report has been internally commissioned.